

## Ground broken for Palau Compact Road



Everybody pitches in for the symbolic turning of soil to mark the beginning of construction of the 53-mile-long road on Babeldaop. U.S. Army photo

**W**hen the first shovels of earth were turned on Babeldaob Island in the Republic of Palau on June 18 to inaugurate the construction phase of the \$149 million 53-mile-long Palau Compact Road project, a reported 300 people joined Palauan officials and representatives of the U.S. and South Korea governments and Daewoo Corporation to witness the event. President Kuniwo Nakamura said that it was the realization of a long-time dream of past presidents of his republic. Palau has been independent since 1994 and is the newest member of the United Nations.

"1999 is, indeed, an earthshaking year for Palau," said Nakamura, referring to the almost simultaneous implementation of major infrastructure projects throughout the nation that include the 53-mile-long road, the KB Bridge, the Palau International Coral Reef Center, a new international airport, dredging of the Peleliu Channel, a power project to outlying states, and the relocation of the capital from Koror to Melekeok.

Daewoo Corporation president Jung-Koo Lee, in his remarks, assured the people of Palau that the project would be implemented to the highest standard and on a timely basis. Daewoo of South Korea was awarded the \$89 million construction contract.

"We are proud to be participants in a new era for Palau," said HED Commander Lt. Col. Wally Z. Walters. "While it is the newest Pacific nation, it is already taking its place among the best led, most democratic, and most responsible, especially in its stewardship of its people and its environment," he said.

Construction of the road is an outgrowth of the trusteeship mandate assigned to the United States by the United Nations in 1946. A formal constitution was adopted by the people of Palau in

See "Palau Compact Road," page 6

## Ceremonies mark command change, farewell

**O**n Tuesday, July 13, 1999, Maj. Gen. Russell L. Fuhrman, USACE Deputy Chief of Engineers, conducted Change of Command ceremonies marking the end of the tenure of the 21st Commander and Division Engineer of the Pacific Ocean Division and transferred responsibility for the Division from Brig. Gen. Carl A. Strock to Acting Commander Col. Donald R. Pawlowski. (See photographs in Regional Roundup on page 3).

Following the Change of Command, a formal Farewell Ceremony on the parade field at Fort Shafter's Palm Circle marked the

departure of Brig. Gen. Strock for his new position as Commander of the Northwestern Division in Portland and gave invited guests, as well as POD and Honolulu Engineer District employees, an opportunity to say goodbye to the Strocks.

Col. (P) Randal R. Castro has been named to assume command as the 22nd Commander of POD. He is expected to arrive in early-August from his position as Executive Officer to the FORSCOM Commander at Fort McPherson, Ga., and to assume command of POD in ceremonies set for Aug. 31.

**Inside**  
inside

**Regional  
Roundup**

*Page 3*

**1999 HED  
Organization Day**

*Page 4*

**Advisory Board  
Formed**

*Page 6*

**Productive  
People**

*Page 7*